

**Meeting of the
WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**

July 2, 2018 at 11:00 am

1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT, 06482

Call-in Information: 515-739-1034, Access Code: 500386#

Agenda

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. WestCOG Turning Movement Counts
- b. Long Range Transportation Plan Meetings

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of June 5, 2018 Minutes
- b. TIP Amendments
- c. LOTCIP Adjustments

Attachment 4a, pp. 1-2

Attachment 4b, pg. 3

Attachment 4c, pp. 4-6

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG
- b. Future Presentations & Items of Interest

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS

7/19/2018 – MPO and COG Meetings

7/31/2018 – TAG Meeting

7. ADJOURNMENT

For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org. Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con WestCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al help@westcog.org. Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em help@westcog.org. Pour obtenir de l'aide linguistique ou d'autres mesures d'adaptation, contactez WestCOG au moins cinq jours ouvrables avant la réunion à help@westcog.org.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



Disclaimer: These interim minutes of the Technical Advisory Group (“TAG”) of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (“WestCOG” or “COG”) are released and “available for public inspection” and “posted” on WestCOG’s website, in accordance with C.G.S. §1-225(a). Said interim minutes are subject to review and approval by the TAG members, after which time the final approved minutes will be available and posted in accordance with laws. Accordingly, the interim minutes may contain inaccuracies and do not reflect the final action of the TAG.

INTERIM MINUTES OF 06/05/2018

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Held at 11am at the Comstock Community Center
180 School Road, Wilton, CT 06897

• Bethel	Director of Public Works Douglas Arndt
• Bridgewater	Absent
• Brookfield	Absent
• Danbury	City Traffic Engineer Abdul Barry Mohamed
• Darien	Public Works Director Edward Gentile, Jr.
• Greenwich	Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel
• HARTransit	Development Director Richard Schreiner
• New Canaan	Director of Public Works Tiger Mann
• New Fairfield	Absent
• New Milford	Grants Coordinator Tammy Reardon
• Newtown	Director of Public Works Fred Hurley
• Norwalk	Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
• Norwalk TD	CEO Kimberlee Morton
• Redding	Absent
• Ridgefield	Town Engineer Charles Fisher
• Sherman	Absent
• Stamford	Traffic Engineer Garrett Bolella
• Weston	Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski
• Westport	Absent
• Wilton	Director of Planning and Land Use Management Robert Nerney

Also in Attendance:

WestCOG staff members; Kristin Floberg, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Nicole Sullivan, Jamie Bastian, Elizabeth Esposito and Executive Director Francis Pickering were in attendance. WestCOG interns in attendance were Collin Donovan, Leonardo Abreu, and Michael Wang. Tom Altermatt of the City of Danbury, Harrsion Wenchell of HARTransit, and Kathryn Faraci of CTDOT were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am by Associate Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos. There was no public comment made. Associate Planner Elizabeth Esposito introduced WestCOG interns Collin Donovan, Leonardo Abreu, and Michael Wang to the TAG members and welcomed them to the meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

USDOT BUILD Discretionary Grants Program: The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Developments grant program, formerly known as the TIGER grant, was discussed. Associate Planner Hadjstylianos and Executive Director Pickering updated the TAG members on the USDOT funding solicitation.

USDOT FTA Grant 2018 Low or No Emission Grant Program: The purpose of the USDOT grant is to support transition of transit fleets to the lowest polluting vehicles possible. The application deadline is June 18th.

EPA Clean Diesel National DERA Grant Program: The purpose of the EPA grant is to reduce diesel admissions in public fleets. The application deadline is June 12th.

Regional Snow Plow Study: Associate Planner Kristin Floberg noted that the municipal specific editing period has ended. It was acknowledged that the consultant will be finishing several written guides for the municipalities. A meeting for each region will be scheduled in the coming weeks to review the guides in person.

Performance Measures: Associate Planner Hadjstylianos discussed the newly released CTDOT Performance Measure Targets with the TAG.

LOTICIP-Program Update: The State budget, Surface Transportation Fund, Commitment to Fund Letters, and future funding was discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 05/1/2018 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and seconded by Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel, the minutes of the May 1st meeting were unanimously approved, except with abstentions made by Grants Coordinator Tammy Reardon and CEO Kimberlee Morton.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: As stated by Associate Planner Hadjstylianos, the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) would include required language on performance-based planning and programming. On a motion made by CEO Kimberlee Morton and seconded by Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock the TIP amendment was unanimously recommended to the HVMPO and SWRMPO for endorsement.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG: There was none stated.

Future Presentations & Items of Interest: A transportation survey was discussed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ ADJOURNMENT

The next MPO and COG meetings will be held on June 21st. The next TAG meeting will be tentatively held on July 2nd. On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:53am.

HVMPO FFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

TAG Action Requested: Review and support TIP amendment endorsement by HVMPO.

Background: The FFY2018-2021 Housatonic Valley TIP was endorsed by the MPO on August 17th, 2017. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on October 19th, 2017.

Amendment #2018-0719:

0117-0159: Intersection Improvements on Main St. Between Prospect and Governor Streets, Ridgefield

This CTDOT-requested TIP amendment pertains to the proposed intersection improvements along Main Street (CT Route 35) in Ridgefield. The project will provide traffic operational improvements on Main Street and will include intersection improvements, the reconfiguration of the CVS driveway on Main Street, and various curb extension bump-outs.

This amendment proposes to decrease the funding of the right-of-way phase and move the construction phase to 2020. As part of the project, CTDOT has coordinated extensively with municipal staff, residents, and business owners on Main Street. Three public workshop meetings have been held to work out a design that improves the corridor while still maintains the character of Main Street. Through this process, a design was settled on that required fewer property takings than anticipated, reducing the funding necessary for the right-of-way phase. The construction phase is being moved back due to conflicts of underground utilities with proposed construction activities. In addition, due to many annual scheduled events on Main Street in the Fall and Winter, there was a desire to have the project constructed in one season.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCD	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
02	STPO	0117-0159	X7	CT 35 (MAIN ST)	RIDGEFIELD	INT. IMPR. ON MAIN ST. PROSPECT & GOVERNOR ST	ROW	2018	25	20	5	0	DECREASE EST FROM FED \$112K AND CHANGE SCOPE
02	STPO	0117-0159	X7	CT 35 (MAIN ST)	RIDGEFIELD	INT. IMPR. ON MAIN ST. PROSPECT & GOVERNOR ST	CON	2020	3,150	2,520	630	0	MOVE FROM FFY'18 TO FFY'20 AND CHANGE SCOPE

AQC X7- exempt

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: TAG Members
 FROM: Francis Pickering and Kristin Hadjstylianos
 DATE: June 26, 2018
 RE: LOTCIP Adjustments

Requested Action:

Review and provide recommendation to COG Members regarding adjustments to the LOTCIP program to expedite project development to ensure the region continues to receive funds. These adjustments include: removing internal sub-allocation of LOTCIP funds, instating project milestone deadlines, instating requirements for program eligibility, and adjusting prioritized projects to close out Fiscal Year 2014.

Background:

Following the passage of the state budget, WestCOG expects the LOTCIP program to resume by the next fiscal year. While the region is waiting on official confirmation from CTDOT, staff have been reviewing the status of current projects and would like to propose opportunities to advance projects at a faster pace to ensure that the region continues to receive funds.

CTDOT has repeatedly stated that the Bond Commission would approve new LOTCIP bonding after exhaustion of existing bonding. The failure of some regions to substantially expend their bonded allocations has resulted in significant unspent balances. To enable regions that have exhausted their allocations to receive additional funds, the Bond Commission is now bonding for LOTCIP on an as-needed and regional basis. Regions that are close to fully expending their allocations will receive new bonding; regions that have not, will not.

After reviewing the status of projects programmed for FY 14 through FY 18, it appears there are some instances where projects are ineligible or have been stalled for a significant amount of time.

Due to the internal sub-allocation of LOTCIP funds by WestCOG, when projects in one part of the region are stalled, the entire region cannot receive additional funding. (The state allocates LOTCIP on a COG, and not MPO, basis.)

While there has been a financial reprieve, there is no guarantee that LOTCIP funding will not be interrupted in the future. However, during the recent pause in transportation funding, CTDOT continued to financially support projects that had received a Commitment to Fund. To minimize the risk of future disruption, it is the region's interest to obtain as many Commitments as possible. WestCOG staff would like to propose a few adjustments to the LOTCIP process to do this, including:

- Administer funds on a COG-wide basis instead of sub-allocating
- Require municipalities to have a signed MMA with CTDOT within 90 days

- Projects that are ineligible: Submit a new project concept and application within 60 days
- Projects without an application: Submit completed application within 60 days
- Design reviews: Municipalities to respond to design comments within 60 days
- Move stalled projects to later fiscal years

WestCOG South Western Region LOTCIP Program - 06/21/2018 - Proposed Adjustments

State Fiscal Year	Municipality	Project	Amount	Balance
Available funding (FY14-16), net of admin. costs*				\$17,863,040
FY14	Stamford	Fiber Optic Trunk Cable	(\$5,411,892)	
FY14	Norwalk	SoNo Streetscape	(\$2,069,045)	①
FY15	Norwalk	Hamilton Ave Staircase	(\$600,000)	②
FY15	Greenwich	Frontage Rd & Delavan Ave Streetscape	(\$1,080,000)	
FY15	Stamford	West Ave & West Main St Intersection	(\$2,000,000)	
FY16	Darien	Noroton Ave & West Ave Intersection	(\$1,200,000)	
FY16	Westport	Main St & Compo Rd North Sidewalks	(\$850,000)	
FY16	Norwalk	Traffic Signal System Upgrade - Phase 3 (Pedestrian Items Only)	(\$500,000)	
FY16	Stamford	Greenwich Ave & Pulaski St Roundabout	(\$2,350,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$1,802,103
Funding (FY17-19) authorized by Legislature but not yet allocated by CT State Bond Commission, net of admin. costs				\$21,865,500
FY17	Greenwich	Sound Beach Ave Bridge & Roundabout	(\$4,900,900)	
FY17	Westport	Riverside Ave Sidewalks	(\$607,115)	
FY17	Greenwich	Davis Ave Bridge	(\$2,500,000)	
FY17	Stamford	Strawberry Hill Rd & Rock Spring Rd Intersection	(\$1,750,000)	
FY18	Greenwich	Glenville Rd & Brookside Dr Intersection	(\$1,750,000)	
FY18	Westport	Compo Rd South Sidewalks	(\$300,000)	
FY18	New Canaan	Locust Ave Parking	(\$2,000,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$9,859,588

*Based on 08/31/2017 CT DOT LOTCIP Program Summary & 01/18/2018 CT DOT Interim LOTCIP Program Status Guidance to COGs

COG: Approved ___/___/___

① Proposed adjustment = Norwalk SoNo Streetscape project change from FY15 to FY14

② Proposed adjustment = Norwalk Hamilton Ave Staircase project change from FY14 to FY15